



Justice Dept. sues Google over digital advertising dominance



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A sign is shown on a Google building at their campus in Mountain View, Calif., on Sept. 24, 2019.
Associated Press

Aruba celebrated Dia di Betico



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Justice Dept. sues Google over digital advertising dominance

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, ERIC TUCKER and FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department and eight states filed an anti-trust suit against Google on Tuesday, seeking to shatter its alleged monopoly on the entire ecosystem of on-line advertising as a hurtful burden to advertisers, consumers and even the U.S. government.

The government alleged in the complaint that Google is looking to “neutralize or eliminate” rivals in the online ad marketplace through acquisitions and to force advertisers to use its products by making it difficult to use competitors’ offerings. It’s part of a new, if slow and halting, push by the U.S. to rein in big tech companies that have enjoyed largely unbridled growth in the past decade and a half.

“Monopolies threaten the free and fair markets upon which our economy is based. They stifle innovation, they hurt producers and workers, and they increase costs for consum-



Attorney General Merrick Garland, joined by Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta and Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter of the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division, speaks at the Department of Justice in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023.

Associated Press

ers,” Attorney General Merrick Garland said at a news conference Tuesday.

For 15 years, Garland said, Google has “pursued a course of anti-competitive conduct” that has stalled the rise of rival technologies and manipulated the mechanics of online ad

auctions to force advertisers and publishers to use its tools. In so doing, he added, Google “engaged in exclusionary conduct” that has “severely weakened,” if not destroyed, competition in the ad tech industry. The suit, the latest legal action brought by the gov-

ernment against Google, accuses the company of unlawfully monopolizing the way ads are served online by excluding competitors. Google’s ad manager lets large publishers who have significant direct sales manage their advertisements. The ad exchange, meanwhile, is a real-time marketplace to buy and sell online display ads.

Garland said Google controls the technology used by most major website publishers to offer advertising space for sale, as well as the largest ad exchange that matches publishers and advertisers together when ad space is sold. The result, he added, is that “website creators earn less and advertisers pay more.” The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, demands that Google divest itself of the businesses of controlling the technical tools that manage the buying, selling and auctioning of digital display advertising, remaining with search — its core business — and other products and services including YouTube, Gmail and cloud services. Alphabet Inc., Google’s parent company, said in a statement that the suit “doubles down on a flawed argument that would slow innovation, raise advertising fees, and make it hard-

er for thousands of small businesses and publishers to grow.” Digital ads currently account for about 80% of Google’s revenue, and by and large support its other, less lucrative endeavors.

Tuesday’s lawsuit comes as the U.S. government is increasingly looking to rein in Big Tech’s dominance, although such legal action can take years to complete and Congress has not passed any recent legislation seeking to curb the influence of the tech industry’s largest players.

The European Union has been more active. It launched an antitrust investigation into Google’s digital ad dominance in 2021. British and European regulators are also looking into whether an agreement for online display advertising services between Google and Meta breached rules on fair competition.

An internet services trade group that includes Google as a member described the lawsuit and its “radical structural remedies” as unjustified. Matt Schruers, president of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, said competition for advertising is fierce and the “governments’ contention that digital ads aren’t in competition with print, broadcast, and outdoor advertising defies reason.” Dina Srinivasan, a Yale University fellow and adtech expert, said the lawsuit is “huge” because it aligns the entire nation — state and federal governments — in a bipartisan legal offensive against Google. In December 2020, 16 states and Puerto Rico sued Google over the exact same issues.

The current online ad market, Srinivasan said, “is broken and totally inefficient.” The fact that intermediaries are getting 30% to 50% of the take on each ad trade is “an insane inefficiency to have baked into the U.S. economy.” She called it “a massive tax on the free internet and consumers at large. It directly affects the viability of a free press” as well. □

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'Happening way too often': Report delves into mass attacks

By REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the nation reels from a week of high-profile shootings, a new report on mass attacks calls for communities to intervene early when they see warning signs of violence, encourages businesses to consider workplace violence prevention plans and highlights the connection between domestic violence, misogyny and mass attacks.

The report, released Wednesday by the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center, analyzed 173 mass attacks carried out over a five-year period from January 2016 to December 2020 in public or semi-public places such as businesses, schools or churches.

It was released as the U.S. experienced a particularly deadly start to the new year that has left 39 people dead in six mass killings, including one this week in Monterey Park, California, that left 11 people dead at a dance hall as they welcomed in the Lunar New Year.

"It's just happening way too often," said Lina Alathari, the center's director, during a news conference ahead of the report's release.

Alathari said that while the center had not specifically studied the shootings that took place this week, there are themes seen "over and over again" when analyzing mass attacks.

The report is the latest in a series undertaken by the center to look at the problem of mass attacks. While previous reports examined the specific years of 2017, 2018 and 2019, the new report noted that it analyzed multiple years of data and gives more "in-depth analysis of the thinking and behavior of mass attackers."

The center defines a mass attack as one in which three or more people — not including the attacker — were harmed. Almost all the attacks were carried out by one person, 96% of attackers were men and the attackers ranged in age from 14 to 87.

The report noted that nearly two-thirds of attackers exhibited behaviors or communications "that were so concerning, they should have been met with an immediate response."

It said these concerns were often shared with law enforcement, employers, school staff or parents.

But in one-fifth of the cases, the concerning behavior wasn't relayed to anyone "in a position to respond, demonstrating a continued need to promote and facilitate bystander reporting."

The report also called for greater attention toward domestic violence and misogyny, noting that nearly half of the attackers studied had a history of domestic violence, misogynistic behavior or both.

"Though not all who possess misogynistic views are violent, viewpoints that describe women as the enemy or call for violence against women remain a cause for concern," the report said.

About half the attacks in the study involved a business location, and attackers often had a prior relationship with the business, as an employee, a customer or a former employer. The report also noted the role that grievances like workplace disputes or feuds with neighbors played in mass attacks. About half the attacks were motivated "in whole or in part by a perceived grievance," according to the report.

"Workplaces should establish behavioral threat assessment programs as a component of their workplace violence prevention plans, and businesses should also establish proactive relationships with area law enforcement so that they may work collaboratively to respond to incidents involving a concern for violence, whether that concern arises from a current employee, a former employee, or a customer," the report read. □



A man lays flowers near wooden hearts displaying names of victims at a vigil outside Monterey Park City Hall, blocks from the Star Ballroom Dance Studio on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, in Monterey Park, Calif.

Associated Press

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NRA sues over Illinois ban on semiautomatic weapons



Assault style weapons are displayed for sale at Capitol City Arms Supply on Jan. 16, 2013, in Springfield, Ill.

Associated Press

By **JOHN O'CONNOR**

AP Political Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Illinois' two-week-old ban on semiautomatic weapons outlaws "ubiquitous" firearms in "radical" defiance of the Constitution's Second Amendment, a federal lawsuit filed by the National Rifle Association Tuesday claims.

The powerful NRA joined a parade of gun-rights activists seeking to toss out the newly minted prohibition

on dozens of rapid-fire pistols and long guns, as well as large-capacity magazines or attachments.

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the law Jan. 10 in response to the shooting deaths of seven at the Fourth of July parade in the Chicago suburb of Highland Park, where 30 were also injured.

He has said he believes the law will withstand court challenges about its constitutionality.

Two individual gun owners from Benton, about 100 miles (161 kilometers) southeast of St. Louis, are lead plaintiffs in the NRA lawsuit, the second to be filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois.

They are joined by two southern Illinois gun dealers and shooting range operators, as well as a Connecticut-based shooting sports trade association.

The NRA pleading notes that the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 2008 Heller decision refuses to let stand any restriction on "weapons that are in common use" today unless — another ruling last summer found — there is evidence of an "enduring American tradition" of restriction.

The Illinois law "takes the radical step of banning nearly every modern semiautomatic rifle — the single-most popular type of rifle in the country, possessed by Americans in the tens of millions," the document says.

The 24 million AR-15 semiautomatic rifles in U.S. circulation far outnumber the 16 million Ford F-150 trucks, the nation's top-selling vehicle, according to the lawsuit.

A similar constitutional challenge was filed last week in the Benton-based Southern District. It was filed by gun owners and gun-rights advocacy groups.

Other lawsuits, filed in southern Illinois county courts, challenge the legislative procedure to approve the law.

Plaintiffs in all the lawsuits are likely seeking southern Illinois courts because of a stronger disposition toward Second Amendment rights. Guns are viewed far more favorably in central and southern Illinois where there are larger populations of hunters and sport shooters, compared to northern metropolitan areas, particularly Chicago, which continues to battle deadly handgun violence.

The NRA-backed lawsuit also argues that the law's

ban on high-capacity ammunition cartridges — no more than 10 rounds for rifles and 15 for pistols — and a long list of attachments and other accessories, is just as problematic because the weapons in question can't operate without them, so the additions are constitutionally protected "firearms" by inference.

Pritzker and allies nationally refer to the guns as "assault weapons."

The pleading notes the tradition of bearing arms and includes a glossary of terms. It explains that the restricted semiautomatic weapons are not machine guns — the expulsion of each round requires a separate squeeze of the trigger.

It points out that detachable magazines date to the Civil War and semiautomatic power is a century old.

Assault style weapons are displayed for sale at Capitol City Arms Supply on Jan. 16, 2013, in Springfield, Ill. □

Prosecutors to Congress: Let state prisons jam cellphones

By **MEG KINNARD**

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Top state prosecutors from across the country are again urging Congress to pass legislation allowing state prisons to jam the signals of cellphones smuggled to inmates, devices the attorneys argue allow prisoners to plot violence and carry out crimes.

"Simply, we need Congress to pass legislation giving states the authority to implement a cell phone jamming system to protect inmates, guards, and the public at large," the 22 prosecutors — all Republicans, led by South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson — wrote in a letter sent Wednesday to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Wilson's office said there are plans to reach out to Democratic state prosecutors, arguing the issue isn't a partisan one.



Prison staff work at Lee Correctional Institution, in Bishopville, S.C.. April 10, 2019.

Associated Press

The letter, provided to The Associated Press, cites a handful of criminal incidents the attorneys say were orchestrated by inmates using contraband cellphones, including a Tennessee drug conspiracy

and a double homicide hit ordered by an Indiana inmate. They also cited a 2018 gang-related siege that raged for more than seven hours at a South Carolina prison, killing seven inmates. One inmate

described bodies "literally stacked on top of each other, like some macabre woodpile." Corrections officials blamed the orchestrated violence — the worst U.S. prison riot in 25 years — in part on illegal cellphones.

"If inmates were blocked from using contraband cell phones, we could prevent serious levels of drug trafficking, deadly riots, and other crimes from happening," the prosecutors wrote. To be able to render the phones — smuggled inside hollowed-out footballs, whisked in by corrupt employees and sometimes even dropped by drone — worthless, prosecutors are calling for a change in a nearly century-old federal communications law that currently prevents state prisons from using jamming technology to nullify illicit cell signals.

The push to clamp down on illicit cellphones in state prisons has been ongoing for years, with South Carolina Corrections Director Bryan Stirling at the forefront of an effort by corrections directors across the country to call for the ability to use more technology to crack down on the contraband phones. □

World War II-era map sparks treasure hunt in Dutch village

By ALEKSANDAR FURTULA

Associated Press

OMMEREN, Netherlands (AP) —

A hand-drawn map with a red letter X purportedly showing the location of a buried stash of precious jewelry looted by Nazis from a blown-up bank vault has sparked a modern-day treasure hunt in a tiny Dutch village more than three quarters of a century later.

Wielding metal detectors, shovels and copies of the map on cellphones, prospectors have descended on Ommeren — population 715 — about 80 kilometers (50 miles) southeast of Amsterdam to try to dig up a potential World War II trove based on the drawing first published on Jan. 3.

"Yes, it is of course spectacular news that has enthralled the whole village," local resident Marco Roodveldt said. "But not only our village, also people who do not come from here." He said that "all kinds of people have been spontaneously digging in places where they think that treasure is buried — with a metal detector."

It wasn't immediately clear if authorities could claim the loot if it was found, or if a prospector could keep it. So far, nobody has reported finding anything. The treasure hunt began this year when the Dutch National Archive published

— as it does every January — thousands of documents for historians to pore over. Most of them went largely unnoticed. But the map, which includes a sketch of a cross section of a country road and another with a red X at the base of one of three trees, was an unexpected viral hit that briefly shattered the mid-winter calm of Ommeren.

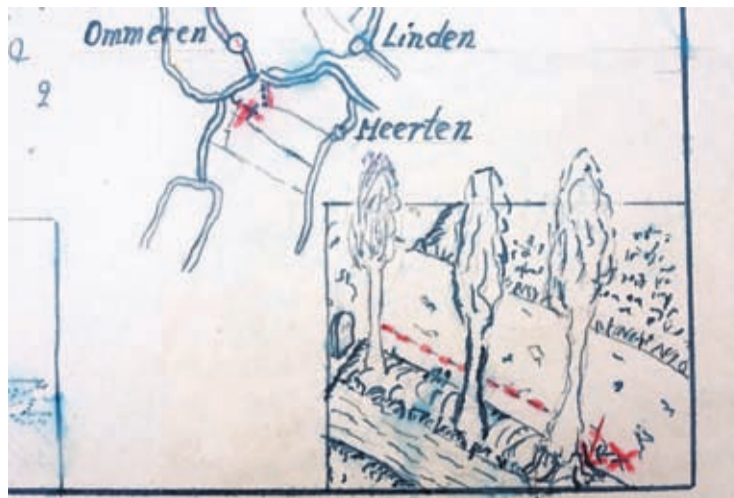
"We're quite astonished about the story itself. But the attention it's getting is as well," National Archive researcher Annet Waalkens said as she carefully showed off the map.

Photos on social media in early January showed people digging holes more than a meter (three feet) deep, sometimes on private property, in the hope of unearthing a fortune.

Buren, the municipality Ommeren falls under, published a statement on its website pointing out that a ban on metal detection is in place for the municipality and warned that the area was a World War II front line.

"Searching there is dangerous because of possible unexploded bombs, land mines and shells," the municipality said in a statement. "We advise against going to look for the Nazi treasure."

The latest treasure hunters aren't the first to leave the village empty handed.



Detail of the map showing where the Nazi loot was reportedly buried in Ommeren, near Arnhem, is seen at the National Archive of the Netherlands in The Hague, Monday, Jan. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

The story starts, Waalkens said, in the summer of 1944 in the Nazi-occupied city of Arnhem — made famous by the star-studded movie "A Bridge Too Far" — when a bomb hit a bank, pierced its vault and scattered its contents — including gold jewelry and cash — across the street.

German soldiers stationed nearby "pocket what they can get and they keep it in ammunition boxes," Waalkens said. As World War II nears its end in 1945, the Netherlands' German occupiers were pushed back by Allied advances. The soldiers who had been in Arnhem found themselves in Ommeren and decided to bury the loot.

"Four ammunition boxes and then just some jewelry that was kept in handkerchiefs or even cash money

folded in. And they buried it right there," she said, citing an account by a German soldier who was interviewed after the war by Dutch military authorities in Berlin and who was responsible for the map. The archive doesn't know if the soldier is still alive and hasn't released his name, citing European Union privacy regulations.

Dutch authorities using the map and the soldier's account went hunting for the loot in 1947. The first time, the ground was frozen solid and they made no headway. When they went back after the thaw, they found nothing, Waalkens said.

After the unsuccessful attempts, the German soldier said "he believed that someone else has already excavated the treasure," she added. □

Malawi cholera outbreak death toll rises above 1,000



Health workers treat cholera patients at the Bwaila Hospital in Lilongwe central

Associated Press

By GREGORY GONDWE
Associated Press

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP) — Malawi's cholera outbreak

has claimed more than 1,000 lives, according to the country's health minister, who warned that some cultural beliefs and hostility toward health workers were slowing efforts to curb infections.

Cholera had killed 1,002 people as of Tuesday, while 1,115 people were hospitalized from the outbreak that started in March 2022, Minister of Health Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda said. It's the country's worst outbreak of the waterborne illness in two decades.

The country of 20 million people recorded 12 deaths from 626 new cases in 24

hours, she said.

Frustration and suspicion over the rising cases resulted in weekend violence. Angry villagers beat up health workers and damaged a facility at the Nandumbo Health Centre in the Southern Region's Balaka district.

Residents accused health workers of denying them an opportunity to conduct dignified burials. They forced some health workers to vacate the facility, stoned a cholera isolation ward and forced the discharge of 22 cholera patients. □

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European court rules Ukraine cases against Russia admissible

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Europe's top human rights court ruled Wednesday that it can adjudicate on cases brought by the Netherlands and Ukraine against Russia for alleged rights violations in eastern Ukraine in 2014, including the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17.

The ruling by the Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights marks significant progress in efforts by the Netherlands and Ukraine to hold Russia legally accountable for its actions in Ukraine and could pave the way for compensation orders. The court said a judgment on the merits of the cases will follow at a later date.

The cases were filed before Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine nearly a year ago.

"Very good news: the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights is another important step in finding the truth and justice for the victims and their relatives of flight #MH17," Dutch Justice Minister Dilan Yesilgöz-Zegerius said in a tweet.

Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra also welcomed the ruling as a significant milestone in the search for accountability.

"We will continue to do



In this July 17, 2014, file photo, people walk amongst the debris at the crash site of a passenger plane near the village of Grabovo, Ukraine.

everything in our power to achieve justice for all 298 victims of flight #MH17 and their loved ones," he tweeted.

The court said evidence presented at a hearing last year established that from May 11, 2014, areas in eastern Ukraine controlled by separatist rebels were "under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation" and that Moscow "had a significant influence on the separatists' military strategy" including providing weapons, carrying out artillery attacks requested by the rebels and giving them

political and economic support.

The court said there was enough evidence to establish the admissibility of most of Ukraine's claims of rights violations and a linked case about the downing of MH17 filed by the Netherlands. It said a small number of allegations were not admissible.

Ben Emmerson, a lawyer who represented Ukraine at court hearings, said the decision "shows that President Putin cannot escape the long arm of international law."

He said the court ruled it

has jurisdiction "to hold Russia accountable, to make legally binding findings of Russian culpability and to award reparations for Russian war crimes, including the murder of Ukrainian civilians, the shooting down of the passenger Flight MH17, the torture and murder of prisoners of war, the destruction and unlawful appropriation of private property, the kidnapping by Russian forces of three groups of orphaned children and their compulsory transfer to Russia."

The Strasbourg court is an important part of the

Council of Europe, which is the continent's foremost human rights institution. Russia was expelled from the council last year in an unprecedented move over Moscow's invasion and war in Ukraine. However, the court can still deal with cases against Russia dating from before its expulsion.

The cases in Strasbourg are separate from a criminal prosecution in the Netherlands in which two Russians and a Ukrainian rebel were convicted in absentia in November of multiple murders for their roles in the downing of Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014. All 298 passengers and crew were killed when the Boeing 777 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was shot down over eastern Ukraine.

In its case at the human rights court, the Netherlands argues that Moscow played a key role in the downing of Flight MH17 and argues that Russia's failure to investigate and lack of cooperation with Dutch prosecutors, along with its denials of involvement, have compounded the suffering of friends and relatives of those killed.

Dutch prosecutors say the missile system that downed MH17 was trucked into Ukraine from a military base in Russia and returned there after the shootdown. □



New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, right, and Deputy Prime Minister Carmel Sepuloni, left, pose with Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro after their swearing in at Government House in Wellington, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

Associated Press

By **NICK PERRY**

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Chris Hipkins was

sworn in Wednesday as New Zealand's 41st prime minister, following the unexpected resignation last

Hipkins sworn in as New Zealand PM, pledges focus on economy

week of Jacinda Ardern.

Hipkins, 44, has promised a back-to-basics approach focusing on the economy and what he described as the "pandemic of inflation."

He will have less than nine months before contesting a tough general election, with opinion polls indicating his Labour Party is trailing its conservative opposition.

New Zealand Governor-General Cindy Kiro officiated the brief swearing in ceremony in front of his friends and colleagues after she earlier accepted

Ardern's resignation.

"This is the biggest privilege and responsibility of my life," Hipkins said at the ceremony.

"I'm energized and excited by the challenges that lie ahead."

Carmel Sepuloni was also sworn in as deputy prime minister, the first time a person with Pacific Island heritage has taken on the role. She congratulated Hipkins and thanked him for the trust he'd placed in her.

After the ceremony, Hipkins said as an aside to reporters: "It feels pretty real

now."

Hipkins is known to many by the nickname "Chippy," which fits with his upbeat demeanor and skills as an amateur handyman.

He served as education and police minister under Ardern. He rose to public prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic, when he took on a kind of crisis management role. But he and other liberals have long been in the shadow of Ardern, who became a global icon of the left and exemplified a new style of leadership. □



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Floral offering for Dia di Betico at Arubahuis

THE HAGUE –Plenipotentiary minister of Aruba, **mr. Ady Thijsen** and acting interim director of Arubahuis, **drs. Glenda Hernandez** on the 24th of January laid a wreath on the eve of **Dia di Betico** at the bust of **Betico Croes** to remember the birth of **Mr. Gilberto Francoise "Betico" Croes**, **Aruban politician and statesman**.

On the 25th of January, Aruba celebrates our national hero, **Betico Croes**. **Gilberto Francois (Betico) Croes**. He helped the island attain the **Status Aparte** – the status of autonomous country within the kingdom of the Netherlands, separate from the other islands of the Antilles.

Aruba was allowed to func-

tion as a commonwealth within the Dutch Kingdom and **Betico** is honored for this outcome since 1989 by celebrating the **Dia di Betico**. The official holiday normally features performances, sporting events and games throughout the island.

Croes himself was not able to enjoy the results of his ongoing struggle; he was involved in an accident on December 31, 1985, and went into a coma. He passed away on November 26, 1986. For the Aruban people, his words will never be forgotten. He told his people: "Si mi cay na caminda, gara e bandera y sigui cu e lucha" which means "If I fall along the way, grab the flag and continue the struggle."

Betico was born on January 25, 1938. **Croes** had four children: two sons—**Glenbert Croes** and **Gilberto Junior Croes** and two daughters—**Glendeline Croes** and **Guisette Croes**. Both of **Croes'** sons served as Ministers and **Glenbert** is currently in office as Minister of Labor. **Betico** was also the uncle of Aruba's current Prime Minister, **Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes**.

The father of the Aruban nation or the **Liberator (Libertador)** as he is called often, was an active man in Caribbean organizations while he studied in the Netherlands. **Betico** was a social man, participated in sports and the social and cultural community. He worked as a teacher and instituted the official seal, flag and hymn for the



island. During the Round table Conference of 1981, he was responsible for formally setting the date for Aruba's independency. **Betico** also became leader of the political party **Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo (MEP)**, now the main party that forms the current government that was elected in September 2021.

There were two stages in which the Independence was formed: the first one

was set for 1986, the second was set for ten years later and enhanced the independence from the Netherlands. However, it never came to a total independence of Aruba in 1996; it was dropped in 1990. The **Status Aparte** within the Kingdom of the Netherlands was to be a permanent one.

Images of the wreath-laying courtesy of Arubahuis. □

According to minister of Energy, Glenbert Croes: Meeting for possible purchase of HFO from PetroEcuador very positive

ORANJESTAD – During a press conference this week by the minister of Labor, Energy and Integration, **Mr. Glenbert Croes**, he informed about his recent trip to Ecuador, where he held various meetings with the minister of Energy and Mining, **Dr. Fernando Santos Alvite**, vice-minister of Hydrocarbons, **Ruben Dario Espin Zapata**, and executives of **PetroEcuador**.

Croes explained that last year he was in Ecuador to meet with the minister in charge of Energy at the time with the intention to search for possibilities that could result in a reduction of the price of water and electricity for Aruba. Considering that the goal of the government of Aruba is to lower the price of electric-

ity, this means that minister **Croes** did his utmost effort and he feels that there is an opportunity to reach agreements that can benefit the Aruban people.

Seeing as national petroleum company of Ecuador, **PetroEcuador** has been supplying HFO to Aruba for a few years already, through some intermediaries, it was advised to search for possibilities to eliminate the intermediaries. Doing this, Aruba can through the Refinery of Aruba (**RdA**) and Fuels Marketing & Supply Aruba (**FMSA**) purchase HFO directly from **PetroEcuador**.

Once it is no longer necessary to pay commission to intermediaries, **FMSA** can obtain HFO with a discount compared to the price it

is currently paying. Consequently, utilities company **WEB** will also receive a discount which can be translated to the community through the reduction of the price for electricity and water, according to the minister.

According to a press release, the government is aware of the concerns within the community regarding the cost of life being very high. For this reason, efforts continue that could lead to a reduction in price for water and electricity, which are fundamental to reducing the cost of life for the entire community.

It is for this reason that **Croes** together executives from **RdA** and the government's adviser on this mat-

ter travelled to Ecuador to meet with the new minister of Energy, **Fernando Santos Alvite** and vice-minister **Espin Zapata**.

They were accompanied by General Consul of the Netherlands in Ecuador, **Diego Almeida**

Guzman. **Croes** thanked the Dutch embassy for the support received because for Aruba, the diplomatic platform of the Dutch embassy is instrumental to open doors and show the seriousness of intentions of the Government of Aruba for every country that they are approaching, in this case Ecuador.

During the meeting, the willingness of the government, Ecuadorian ministers and **PetroEcuador** to

cooperate with Aruba's request to reach a direct relationship between the national companies was expressed, in this case, for **RdA** and **FMSA** to purchase the fuel that **WEB** needs directly from **PetroEcuador** without intermediaries.

Additionally, **Croes** said that because **RdA** and **FMSA** are 100% property of Aruba, he urges **PetroEcuador** to not let our companies take part in a tender like any other private company, but rather to allow negotiations to take place directly finding fair and balanced terms with a win-win for Ecuador and Aruba. Concluding, the minister emphasized that the meetings went well and Aruba was well-received by Ecuador. □

Bowls Noodle Bar invites you to a Happy Hour with a unique flavor



Bowls Noodle Bar recently opened at their new location at The Village, near the High Rise Hotels. To celebrate, they are launching their new Happy Hour from 9pm to 11pm every day.

Before the pandemic, Bowls Noodle Bar opened at the Hyatt by the airport, and was in the process of opening a second location at The Village when the pandemic hit. Due to the consequences of the pandemic, they decided to close the restaurant by the airport and open their new location at The Village. Their new location has been open for about six months to great results.

At The Village, night time is the best time. This is why

they are now offering a daily Happy Hour, from 9pm to 11pm. It includes \$3 beer and \$5 cocktails.

Their cocktails are made in-house with a unique fusion of Asian flavors, for example, the popular purple Ube Mojito, with the flavor of traditional Ube, a Japanese dessert; the Blue Samurai with ginger flavor; and the refreshing Fruity Blossoms, with a flavor encompassing the Sakura, the famous Japanese Cherry Blossoms. You can try all these for only \$5 each during Happy Hour.

Fusion is at the core of the unique flavors of Bowls Noodle Bar, and this is expressed beautifully in their traditional Japanese soups. They are the only restaurant in Aruba that has most of the noodles traditionally used, Udon, Ramen, and Rice noodles. Ramen noodles, served fresh, are a surprising flavor for those who are used to dried ramen noodles. They also have Jasmine rice for the rice bowls.

Their authentic soups are the highlight and star. Chef Warren explains that there are four main components to the soup: the broth, the noodles, tare, and the oil, and these are very impor-

tant for the traditional Japanese soups. At Bowls Noodle Bar, they have a wide variety of flavors to cater to every taste, like the famous Pork Chashu. It comes with fresh ramen noodles, and it's the pride of Bowls Noodle Bar. Chef Warren says that the broth for this soup takes two to three days to make, and is made in-house, with fresh and delicious ingredients. They also cater to vegetarians and vegans, with various options on the menu like tofu mushroom soup, vegetable gyoza, wonton, and fresh kimchi fermented at the restaurant.

The wok concept also allows you to create your own unique dish, choosing your base, protein, vegetables and sauce.

Origin

The founders of Bowls Noodle Bar, Dexter Moreno and his partner Lai, opened their first location on Curaçao. They traveled to Japan to study Japanese Cuisine, and they fell in love with Japanese soup. Lai's parents are Chinese, and this is the start of the Asian-fusion flavors that are both surprising and delectable, combining Japanese, Chinese and even some Korean cuisine. Chef Warren was trained in these traditional flavors by the founders themselves.

They came to Aruba where Dexter approached some ex-colleagues in the industry to open a location on the island, and with a local team, opened Bowls Noodle Bar Aruba with a more extensive menu.

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 5pm – 11:30pm; Friday and Saturday 5pm – 12pm; and Sunday 5pm – 11:30pm. Come visit for great atmosphere, delicious flavors, and a Happy Hour to remember! ☐

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Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well

as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Courtney Margazano (Heyliger-Webb).

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is going back to my roots. I grew up in Maryland always hearing people marvel and get excited when my mom said she was from Aruba. It took me hitting adulthood

and having a child of my own to realize how special my Aruban heritage is. My grandmother came to Aruba from Anguilla at the age of 12 and my grandfather came from Saba to work for Standard Oil.

When I visit Aruba with my husband and son I get to visit family. I get to hear the stories of my mother's childhood and see the church where my grandfather was ordained in 1975 as a priest. I get to watch my son play at the beaches his great-grandparents enjoyed. I get to hear the stories my mom and uncle have of growing up on the island. It's amazing to watch my son experience Aruba and enjoy it so much! I love hearing stories from my mother's memory of the hospital she was born in and the first "high rise" being built.

The perfect weather, friendly people, amazing food, and relaxed island atmosphere are just added benefits to visiting such a special island. I'm thankful for the museum of industry in San Nicolaas for teaching the rich history of the island. I'm thankful and proud of my Aruban heritage and thankful my son is learning and appreciating it too!"

In the photo: Her husband Matthew and her son Nigel.

Thank you for sending us this beautiful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Shoco or Xequé

Episode CXC-190

Destination values, native heritage, and cultural identity are what we advocate for in our own particular way of safeguarding all reasons to love Aruba. Etnia Nativa, through this cultural blog, "Island-Insight," shares native cultural awareness, educates, and safeguards native heritage. It is how we encourage you to experiment with an island-keeper state of mind during your stay.

Aruba's fragile ecosystem, its flora and fauna that used to live in a specific part of the territory, have become victims of displacement or destruction, while the protection of natural resources should be a priority if we seriously pretend to rely on tourism. Uncontrolled development and overexploitation are creating an irreversible process of destruction in nature that renders it incapable of supporting its unique native species, turning the earth into something worse than a desert a "progress" that condemns native species to extinction.

Habitat destruction is the most common cause of species extinction on the planet. While a small island like Aruba faces a process of environmental decimation caused by irresponsible individuals as well as comfortable authorities' behavior, which contributes to accelerating the effects of climate change, native species are also threatened by invasive species, such as boa constrictors, feral cats, stray dogs, and daily human intrusive activities.

Aruba's most famous bird, the Aruban owl (*Athene cucularia arubensis*), well known locally as Shoco and also as Xequé (a word probably derived from the Arawakan language of the Caquetian tribe), is endemic to the island and an important part of the native culture.

Aruba's prestataria lechuza, *Athenecunicularia arubensis*, or "Shoco," plays a great part in the islands' native mythology. Standing between 7 and 10 inches tall, this little owl gets its name from where it nests. Burrowing owls are often found in abandoned rodent



burrows or old pipes; most often, they dig a nest in mounds of sand. Far from the trees, they nest and live near their burrows. Their brown mottled feathers help them blend in with the surrounding landscape, where they feed on insects, small mammals, and sometimes reptiles and amphibians.

Burrowing owls can be difficult to spot if they are not moving. In addition to its ability to naturally blend in with its surroundings, an owl appears from a distance to be just another prairie dog keeping watch near its underground home. An observer should carefully scan the landscape, for example, with binoculars or a camera, just as if they were searching for a prairie dog colony,

looking for any movement by the owls. The reward can be that little dance hops owls make. Sometimes this dance involves them balancing on their long legs.

Burrowing owls catch food while walking or running on the ground and also catch insects in the air while hovering just above the surface. Much of their food source is available during the day, but they are also active at night.

Intrigued by Aruba's origins and its cultural heritage? Then we encourage you to do something outside of the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa, a private residential encounter set up where you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba heritage, a spectacle of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items of the island's bygone era. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace, relaxation, knowledge, and information.

Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, artist craftsman, and island Piache, who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection. Etnia Nativa is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural heritage. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary Native Aruba experience!

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Aruba celebrated Dia di Betico

ORANJESTAD – Yesterday, Aruba celebrated the birth of our national hero Betico Croes, which is known as Dia di Betico (Betico Day). The festivities were started by a protocol act at the Plaza Betico.

Yesterday morning, prime minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes gave a speech during the protocol act to commemorate the 25th of January, the date of birth of Gilberto François Croes, better known as Betico Croes. The act took place in the presence of various ministers and officials from Aruba and abroad, who met together with His Excellency the Governor of Aruba, Mr. Alfonso Boekhoudt at the Plaza Betico Croes.

Betico Croes, who sadly passed away at the age of 48, is thanked for his determination, perseverance and courage, and with the support of a united people, he was able to achieve big things for Aruba, and thanks to him, today Arubans live in an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

"I am sure that we all agree that thanks to our Status Aparte we could develop our country into one of the leaders in the region. Betico is a person who, in a short life, left a big legacy exemplified by determination, perseverance, courage and fight for unity", the Prime Minister expressed. Status Aparte – or Separate State – is the special status of Aruba as an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, separate from the Netherlands Antilles to which it belonged until 1986.

Betico was a father to four children, was a husband, a son and a brother, and he was also the uncle to Prime Minister Wever-Croes. She qualifies him as a person with an enormous charisma, who always had attention for everyone. As his own son and Betico himself once said in one of his speeches, considered his farewell speech at Ser'i Noka in November 1985, he wasn't father to a typical home of a mother, father and four children, but he was a particular father to the whole of Aruba, and he hoped his children would be proud of him "as every child of this people", he said.

As a politician, Betico Croes demonstrated how to lead from the heart putting the people first, how to lead with respect for others by giving and demanding respect. He showed that women should be given a space in politics, because more participation of women in politics and important positions in government brings a better balance in decision making regarding everyone.

He showed that to achieve a goal, it is necessary sometimes to take a small step back in order to be able to take big steps forward. He taught the importance of loving our country, loving the symbols of liberty, our flag and anthem, and also showed the importance of unity, "because he said that a united people will never be defeated."

It is now up to each Aruban citizen to carry on with the principles and values that Betico embodied and which lead Aruba to great success. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

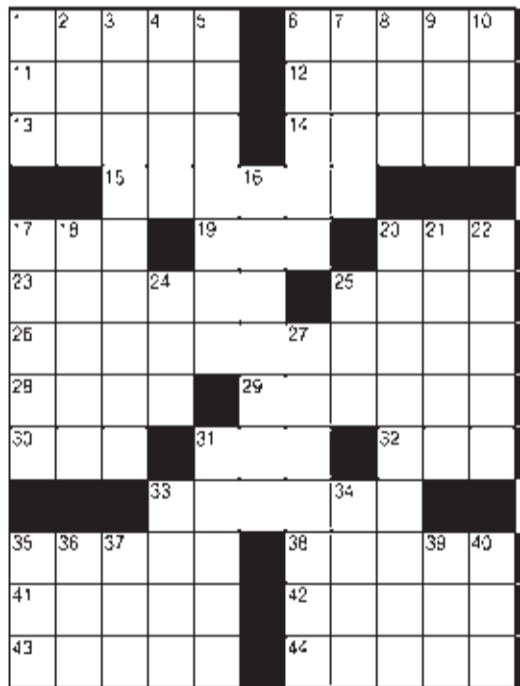
- 1 Radius end
- 6 Football team
- 11 Feudal lord
- 12 Full of passion
- 13 Verdi work
- 14 Usher's spot
- 15 Make over
- 17 Snaky shape
- 19 "— been swell!"
- 20 Sis's sib
- 23 Genetic oddity
- 25 Horse halter
- 26 Oktoberfest locales
- 28 Do copy work
- 29 Unrefined
- 30 Bear's lair
- 31 Pi follower
- 32 Track act
- 33 Fume
- 35 Godzilla's home
- 38 Deceitful
- 41 Glorify
- 42 Skateboarding jump
- 43 Campout sights
- 44 Fit for a king

DOWN

- 1 "Evil Woman"
- band
- 2 Gloss target
- 3 Draft mug
- 4 Storybook monster
- 5 Not staying in one's lane
- 6 Criticizes
- 7 Witty remark
- 8 Naval initials
- 9 Georgia airport code
- 10 Color
- 16 Embassy worker



Yesterday's answer



1-26

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

GMD FWP'Q BYQ QMM ADFX

HLPQYT LP QXY HLPQYT.

— TMKYTQ UTMCC

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A VACATION IS WHAT YOU TAKE WHEN YOU CAN NO LONGER TAKE WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TAKING. — EARL WILSON

Tax season already? Some tips for avoiding stress and scams

By ADRIANA MORGA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For many people filing U.S. tax returns — especially those doing it for their first time — it can be a daunting task that's often left to the last minute. But if you want to avoid the stress of the looming deadline, start getting organized as soon as possible.

Whether you do your taxes yourself, go to a tax clinic or hire a professional, navigating the tax system can be complicated and stressful. Courtney Alev, a consumer financial advocate for Credit Karma, recommends you go easy on yourself.

"Take a breath. Take some time, set out an hour, or go through it over the weekend. You'll hopefully see that it's a lot simpler than you think," Alev said.

If you find the process too confusing, there are plenty of free resources to help you get through it.

Here are some things you need to know:

WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO FILE TAXES?

Taxpayers have until April 18 to submit their returns from 2022.

WHAT DO I NEED TO FILE MY TAX RETURN?

While the required documents might depend on your individual case, here is a general list of what everyone needs:

- Social Security number
- W-2 forms, if you are employed

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London gallery to show McCartney photos from Beatlemania era

LONDON (AP) — A trove of previously unseen photos taken by Paul McCartney as the Beatles shot to global stardom will go on display in London this year. The National Portrait Gallery announced Wednesday that the exhibition, titled "Eyes of the Storm," will help mark the gallery's reopening in June after a three-year refurbishment. Gallery director Nicholas Cullinan said McCartney, approached the gallery in 2020 saying he had rediscovered a batch of photos from late 1963 and early 1964 that he had thought were lost. The pictures cover a brief, transformative time when the Beatles rose from sensations in their own country to a worldwide phenomenon, notably their breakthrough in the U.S. and historic appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show." Cullinan said they were an "extraordinary" set of images of "such a famous and important cultural moment



Paul McCartney and Nancy Shevell pose for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'If These Walls Could Sing' in London, Monday, Dec. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

... taken by someone who was really, as the exhibition title alludes, in the eye of the storm." "Paul McCartney Photographs 1963-64:

"Eyes of The Storm" opens June 28 and runs to Oct. 1. A companion book will come out two weeks earlier in the U.S. and Britain,

according to a joint announcement by the British and American publishers. "Anyone who rediscovers a personal relic or family trea-

sure is instantly flooded with memories and emotions, which then trigger associations buried in the haze of time," McCartney said in a statement issued through his publishers. "This was exactly my experience in seeing these photos, all taken over an intense three-month period of travel, culminating in February 1964. It was a wonderful sensation to be plunged right back. Here was my own record of our first huge trip, a photographic journal of The Beatles in six cities, beginning in Liverpool and London, followed by Paris ... and then what we regarded as the big time, our first visit as a group to America." The gallery is due to reopen June 22. Other exhibitions slated for this year include a retrospective of the 20th-century English photographer Yvonne, a show of drawings by David Hockney and an exhibition of portraits by Black artists from the U.S. and Britain. □

Natasha Lyonne stars in 'Poker Face,' a Peacock howdunit



Actor Natasha Lyonne appears during a portrait session to promote the series "Poker Face," in West Hollywood, Calif., Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023.

Associated Press

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Known for her wise-cracking, quick delivery, Natasha Lyonne's newest role in the Peacock series "Poker Face" grants her an opportunity to play a character with a personality trait she's never played before. Lyonne's character, Charlie, likes people. Charlie's still got zingers, but Lyonne says the character is partly inspired by Jeff Bridges' famed character,

The Dude, in "The Big Lebowski." She's "a person a little bit set back who's kind of got sun on their face," said Lyonne, "I'm usually more of a city slicker and someone who avoids getting hit by taxis and runs down in a sub-way." Adds creator Rian Johnson, "Charlie's very open. She's very sunny. That kind of blew Natasha's mind. She's like, 'Oh, this will be a new thing for me to play. I like

people.' The natural kind of like acidity and sharpness of Natasha's personality, combined with a character who has a genuinely sunny outlook ... I find it's super watchable."

Charlie has a keen ability to automatically know when someone is lying. After events in the first episode send her on the run from a mafia boss and his enforcer — played by Benjamin Bratt — she sets off in her car to drive... away from trouble. In each stand-alone episode, Charlie encounters new people, a murder and, of course, lies, that make her want to figure out what happened.

Johnson describes it as a howdunit and unapologetically a procedural. Charlie knows who commits the murder but has to figure out how.

"We follow the same format with every single episode. We show the murder, then we flashback and see where Charlie was during the murder. We catch up with the murder and then

she solves it. Keeping that procedural consistency was a big, big deal to me because when I tune in to TV, part of what I love is hanging out with the same friends over and over. It's a comforting pattern of getting a new thrill from something that I know what to expect from every single week. There's great joy in that... I embrace it completely."

As Charlie encounters a new mystery each week, there's a revolving door of notable guest stars throughout the 10-episode first season, including Lil Rey Henry, Tim Meadows, Luis Guzman, Chloë Sevigny and even Nick Nolte — who appears in an episode that Lyonne directed, which she described as a "sensational" experience.

"Strong recommend for literally everyone. Now, granted, that might get chaotic because Nick likes somebody who is pretty serious, but yeah, I would say I recommend it to all hobbyists."

Lyonne describes acting opposite so many guest stars as mostly great and seems amused by those that were perhaps more challenging.

"Sometimes somebody comes in and it's just really joyous. It's like making music with this really cool musician you didn't know you were going to play so well with. Other times it's like, 'Oh, wow, so this person just doesn't memorize their lines. OK, this is going to be a long, long day.' It's sort of a mixed bag sometimes. I would say that the caliber of people that we were able to put together is definitely, maybe like 99% really, really awesome. There were a few that were like, 'This is sticky business.' You never know. You never know."

Another reason Charlie is able to pick up on something that seems off is because she pays attention to those around her and likes the underdogs, those who are ignored or dismissed by others. □

Paul tops Shelton at Australian Open, faces Djokovic next

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Tommy Paul received a lot less attention than his younger, less-experienced, opponent, Ben Shelton, heading into their all-American quarterfinal at the Australian Open.

Perhaps that was a product of the fascination with the out-of-nowhere Shelton: Just 20, and less than a year after winning an NCAA title for the University of Florida, he was traveling outside of the United States for the first time and participating in his second Grand Slam tournament.

So the loud shouts heard most often emanating from the Rod Laver Arena stands on Wednesday, under the sun that carried the temperature to 87 degrees Fahrenheit (30 degrees Celsius), were for one of the pair: "Let's go, Benny! Let's go!" or "Benny, Benny, Benny! Oi, Oi, Oi!" or "Go, Gators!" "He had a pretty good trip," Paul noted.

Paul's story is a pretty good one, too, and it is the one that will keep going at Melbourne Park: The 25-year-old was a star in the juniors and now is making good on that promise in the pros, using a 7-6 (6), 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Shelton to reach his first Grand Slam semifinal in his 14th appearance at a major.

"Every junior to pro has



Tommy Paul of the U.S. serves to compatriot Ben Shelton during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

Associated Press

a different path. ... Mine has been, like, the slowest," the 35th-ranked Paul said, mentioning a group of Americans he grew up with: Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe, Reilly Opelka. "I like to think the last four years of my career has just been like steady steps moving up. I mean, that's what it's felt like. I feel like hopefully 2023 is the year where I really make a big jump."

As a bonus, Paul's mother was in the crowd for the biggest victory of his career. He said Mom booked a flight after he won his fourth-round match, then went straight from work

to the airport to make the long journey from the U.S.

"She's done a lot for me, from when I was really young until now. She's sacrificed a ton to get me here," Paul said. "She deserves to be here and deserves to see me win big matches."

Paul's next opponent will be 21-time Grand Slam singles champion Novak Djokovic, who overwhelmed No. 5 seed Andrey Rublev 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. After dealing with a worrisome left hamstring in his first two matches, Djokovic has been on quite a roll: He's won his past 11 sets and dropped a total

of 27 games in that span as he chases a 10th championship in Melbourne — "something that sends a message," he said, "to all my opponents remaining in the draw."

The other men's semifinal Friday is Stefanos Tsitsipas against Karen Khachanov. After dropping Rublev's record in major quarterfinals to 0-7 and extending his own winning streak at the Australian Open to 26 matches, equaling Andre Agassi for the longest run there in the Open era, Djokovic looked ahead to facing Paul for the first time. "I know how he plays. ...

He's been around for a few years. I watched him play quite a bit, especially during this tournament. He's been playing probably tennis of his life," Djokovic said. "Very explosive, very dynamic player."

Paul initially broke through as a teenager, taking the 2015 junior title at the French Open (beating Fritz) and getting to the final at Flushing Meadows that year, too (losing to Fritz). Since turning professional, he has claimed one tour-level trophy, at Stockholm in 2021, and, until this week, had made it as far as the fourth round at just one Grand Slam tournament — at Wimbledon a year ago. Now Paul is the first man from his country to make it to the final four at Melbourne Park since Andy Roddick in 2009. Roddick was also the last man from the U.S. to win a Grand Slam singles championship, at the U.S. Open 20 years ago.

And while Shelton was sort of adopted by the locals — "The crowds have been pretty unbelievable. ... They kind of treated me like one of their own," he observed — Paul was not drawing the same amount adoration.

"I've been on the outside courts, grinding, until the round of 16," Paul said. "I've been flying under the radar a little bit." □

World track body proposal: No ban on transgender athletes

By **GERALD IMRAY**

AP Sports Writer

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — Track and field's governing body is facing renewed criticism for a proposal to allow transgender athletes to continue competing in top female events, although with stricter rules.

World Athletics has sent a proposal for new regulations governing transgender athletes — and the separate issue of athletes with Differences in Sex Development like two-time

Olympic champion Caster Semenya — to national track federations for their feedback.

The governing body's "preferred option," it said in a statement this week, is for transgender and DSD athletes to still be allowed to compete in female events if they reduce their testosterone levels further, to below 2.5 nanomoles per liter of blood.

They would have to keep their testosterone below that level for at least two years before being allowed

to compete, according to World Athletics' proposal.

Transgender athletes are currently clear to enter elite female events if they have kept their testosterone levels below 5 nanomoles for at least a year. DSD athletes, who also have testosterone levels higher than the typical female range, have to be below 5 nanomoles for six months before competing.

Although WA is proposing to tighten its regulations, it had been expected to consider a complete ban



World Athletics President Sebastian Coe holds a press conference at the conclusion of the World Athletics meeting at the Italian National Olympic Committee, headquarters, in Rome, Nov. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

for transgender athletes in female events following

swimming's decision to do that last year. □

Shiffrin adds to record total with 84th win in another GS



A crown is placed on United States' Mikaela Shiffrin's head after she won an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom, in Kronplatz, Italy, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

Associated Press

SAN VIGILIO DI MAREBBE, Italy (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin didn't wait long to add to her record total of World Cup wins.

A day after securing record victory No. 83, Shiffrin added her 84th win on Wednesday in another giant slalom on the same course.

And like how she did it a day earlier, Shiffrin led from start to finish, dominating the first run down the steep Erta course and then adding to her advantage in the second run.

Shiffrin finished a massive 0.82 seconds ahead of two-time Olympic silver medalist Ragnhild Mowinckel and 1.19 ahead of Olympic champion Sara Hector.

When Shiffrin reached the finish after her second run, she collapsed to the snow in apparent exhaustion — with her skis still attached to her boots — before Mowinckel and Hector came over to congratulate her and help her up.

"Oh my gosh," Shiffrin said. "I was pushing so hard and I just hoped I ended up on the right side of all the

gates. Now I'm a bit dead mentally — just so tired. But when you ski like that it keeps your energy going so just an incredible feeling."

While Tuesday's win moved Shiffrin ahead of the previous women's mark of 82 victories held by former American teammate Lindsey Vonn, Wednesday's victory moved her within two of the overall record — between men and women — of 86 wins held by Ingemar Stenmark.

Vonn retired four years ago when injuries cut her career short, while Stenmark raced in the 1970s and 80s.

If Shiffrin wins two slaloms in Spindleruv Mlyn, Czech Republic, this weekend, she could match Stenmark on Sunday.

"Technically, it is possible,"

Shiffrin said with a laugh. "We'll see if I can put the energy on my slalom skis for two more races."

"It's been busy, and I am in a kind of an unfortunate time of my monthly cycle, so I'm more tired right now. We just normalized talking about that," she added. Spindleruv was where Shiffrin made her World Cup debut as a 15-year-old prodigy nearly 12 years ago.

"It's a special place for me," she said. "So I'm really looking forward to go."

Former World Cup giant slalom champion Marta Bassino was on track for the podium before she lost control a few gates from the finish and plowed through a gate, which hit her hard in the shins.

It was Shiffrin's 10th win of the season and her 19th career victory in giant slalom, moving her within one of Vreni Schneider's record of 20 in the discipline.

Shiffrin said she had a late night after her record-breaking day.

"But it was a really nice evening," she said. "It was so nice to see messages from people and so much support and so much excitement about the race. I was definitely looking a lot at all of that and then trying to go to bed and have a good night's sleep. And I was awake at midnight. I was awake at 3. Then I was awake at 5. I was hungry all night. I was like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm a mess.'"

Still, Shiffrin managed to pull herself together in order to bring out her best skiing again.

"After yesterday, I was just so tired, which made today pretty hard," she said. "And I felt nervous because when I am skiing tired, I make mistakes. And I didn't want to make a mistake today."

"In the first run, I thought, 'Either I am going out at the fourth gate or it's going to be a really good run.' It ended up being a really good run. The second run, I was just trying to trust my skiing and keep pushing, no matter what I felt." □

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